General Education Program Committee
Minutes
8 September 2004

Present: Richard Jones-Bamman, Chuck Booth, Maggie Martin, Delar Singh, Carol Williams, Nancy Salter, ex-officio.

1. Review and acceptance of draft minutes 8 September 2004 (Singh, Jones-Bamman).

2. Discussion of models:
   Student input
   Committee members agreed that it would be beneficial to involve students in a discussion about general education reform. Although there is a seat on the Committee for a student, no student was appointed from student government. Maggie will contact the Senate Secretary to indicate our need for a student representative from Student Government. Members of the Committee may work to identify students who may be interested and willing to serve.

   Denise Matthews, from the Communication Department, indicated her willingness to work with the Committee to engage students. Committee members thought that the timing would best fit a general discussion of what students thought constituted a liberally educated person and to begin the process of discussing general education content.

   Committee members brainstormed extra-curricular approaches which would support our liberal arts mission. They suggested that the convocation speaker present about the liberal arts. A member of the business, industry or professional communities could discuss why the liberal arts are fundamental to success. At least one University Hour slot each semester could be dedicated to linking the liberal arts to real world challenges. All first year students may be required to attend this presentation. Carol Williams will discuss this proposal with the University Hour Committee.

   Pre-tenured faculty meeting
   Committee members supported the proposal to invite pre-tenured faculty members to a forum hosted by the pre-tenured members of the GEPC. As important stakeholders in the general education curriculum it is important to understand their unique perspectives. They are often the faculty required to teach general education courses and may not receive recognition for this work from their departments. Their ideas are valued and are necessary for a successful new plan. A meeting could be held on Monday or Wednesday during the University Hour slot and refreshments should be available.

   Other faculty contacts
   An all-faculty forum should also be held to discuss the proposed models. A similar time period and setting is recommended.
   The list of departmental liaisons will be updated and department chairs contacted by Maggie to offer a visit by GEPC members to discuss the models.

3. First Year Program
   Richard has joined the First Year Program Committee and will serve as the liaison between the GEPC and this Committee. He presence will be critical to assuring sound communication of this Committee’s interests in linking the First Year Program to the general education curriculum.

New Business

4. GER Substitutions
   Committee members reviewed a consultation provided to Susan Heyward about a request for a general education course substitution. Because of the urgency for the student to register, the Committee collaborated via e-mail. The request for a substitution of Piano II for the ger Piano I was denied. The majority of the Committee members perceived that this section of the core (IIB) required not just any audience or artist experience, but that in order to develop greater depth in a student’s educational experience and an appreciation for the beginning experience in these roles, that the student should seek another course approved within the category.

5. University Senate Meeting
   Maggie reported that the Senate Organization Committee will be ready to hold a vote on various Senate matters in three to four weeks. Members of the faculty at the Senate meeting were polled regarding their sense of the readiness of the faculty to vote on the two models. All present responded affirmatively. The
Committee will insure that the faculty are aware of the upcoming vote and our willingness to discuss these models with faculty.

6. General Education Goals
Information was circulated which linked the curriculum mandates to possible curriculum goals. The University mission, the Core Abilities of the Liberally Educated Person, New England Association of Schools and Colleges Current and Proposed Accreditation Standards, and the CT Department of Higher Education statutory standards were detailed. Committee members will review the documents for further discussion.

7. Academic Affairs Representative
The Academic Affairs Committee has not yet met. This item was tabled.

8. Election of Chair
A motion was made and seconded (Booth, Jones-Bamman) to nominate Maggie Martin for Chair. Committee members voted in favor of the appointment.

New Business

Next Meeting: The next GEPC meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 15, at 9:30 am in Webb 258.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Martin, Chair